

BEFORE
THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF
SOUTH CAROLINA
DOCKET NO. 2021-369-T - ORDER NO. 2022-64
FEBRUARY 10, 2022

IN RE: Application of Wells Venture, LLC d/b/a) ORDER APPROVING
College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving to) TARIFF AMENDMENTS
Amend Its Tariff)

I. INTRODUCTION

This matter comes before the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (Commission) on the Application of Wells Venture, LLC d/b/a College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving (Wells Venture, Applicant or Company) to amend the Company's current tariff on December 6, 2021. Wells Venture is the holder of a Class E Household Goods motor carrier certificate to transport household goods in South Carolina pursuant to the authority granted by the Commission.¹ We approve the request of Wells Venture to amend its tariff as set forth in this order.

II. FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Commission originally granted Class E certification to Wells Venture, LLC d/b/a College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving on March 26, 2019, approving a tariff and bill of lading. In this docket, filed December 6, 2021, Wells Venture asks to modify its rates and charges and to make changes to its operations. The Company included the

¹ Docket No. 2018-394-T, Order No. 2019-171.

following summary of the proposed amendments, later memorialized in the Notice of Filing prepared by the Commission's Clerk's Office:

I. Section 1.1 Hourly Rates and Charges

- a. Removal of weekend rate
- b. Implementation of "Standard Rate" and Regular Season and Peak Season
- c. "Per Man" increase from \$30 to \$35

II. Section 1.2 Minimum Hourly Charges

- a. Outlined Regular and Peak Season months and changed Hour Minimums
- b. Recognized Federal Holiday: Three Hour Minimum

III. Section 1.3 Cancellation Policy

- a. Added section to outline Cancellation Policy
- b. Cancellation within 72 hours results in a one-hour minimum charge

IV. Section 1.4 Overnight Holds

- a. Added section to outline Overnight Hold Policy
- b. Implemented that in-state moves may not exceed 1 overnight hold
- c. Implemented that following day charges begin at 8:30am at stated hourly rate
- d. Overnight hold charge increased to \$150/night

V. Section 2.1 Bulky Items

- a. Removed Pool Tables
- b. Added Piano, Grand/Baby Grand - \$300

- c. Added verbiage to both Piano charges that Piano will not be moved up or down flights of stairs
- d. Added General Heavy Item - \$250

VI. Section 2.2 Elevator or Stair Carry

- a. Added charge for use of elevator or stairs over 1 flight at \$50 per flight

VII. Section 2.6 Piano Charges

- a. Added verbiage to further explained piano charges

VIII. Section 2.7 Articles, Special Servicing

- a. Added verbiage that College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving does not assume responsibility for complications or damage

IX. Section 2.9 Right to Decline Move

- a. Added verbiage that College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving reserves the right to decline any job deemed unsafe, unclean, inhospitable/aggressive towards the workers, or in the presence of illegal substances

X. Section 4.0.1 Promotions

- a. Changed verbiage to explain the rates applied to Military personnel
- b. Added a table showing the promotional rates

The Office of Regulatory Staff (ORS) filed a Notice of Appearance of Counsel on December 7, 2021, pursuant to section 58-4-10 of the South Carolina Code of Laws (Supp. 2021).

The Commission's Clerk's Office directed Wells Venture to publish the Notice of Filing on or before January 11, 2022, and to provide proof of the publication by that date. Wells complied by submitting an affidavit on December 16, 2021, indicating it published the Notice in the *Herald-Journal*, a newspaper printed in Gastonia, North Carolina, with a "general circulation in the County of Spartanburg, State of South Carolina." (Proof of Publication, filed December 16, 2021). No person intervened as party of record.

Wells Venture offered the following reasons for seeking the amendments: "We have found it harder to find and retain workers and are forced to increase pay, hence the need to increase our prices." (Correspondence dated December 3, 2021, filed on December 6, 2021.)

On January 12, 2022, Wells notified the Commission it made two additional changes to the tariff after engaging in discussions with ORS. Specifically, Wells stated: "After speaking with the ORS, we have updated the language as below: Section 2.1 – Language was added to clarify weight of general heavy items under bulky items. Section 2.2 – Language added to clarify what a flight of stairs means." Also on January 12, 2022, Wells Venture submitted a second proposed tariff.

On January 18, 2022, ORS notified the Commission it reviewed the application of Wells Venture to amend its tariff. On January 14, 2022, ORS found Wells Venture to be in compliance with Commission rules and regulations, including annual report and gross receipt filing requirements. ORS also notified the Commission it had not received any consumer complaints regarding the company in the past year. Finally, ORS provided the Commission with the following tariff comparison chart:

January 14, 2022

ORS Tariff Comparison
Wells Venture LLC dba College HUNKS Hauling Junk and Moving
Docket No. 2021-369-T

Exhibit A

	Description	Unit	Approved Rate	Proposed Rate	Increase Amount	% Increase
Rates Per Hour	Rate per two movers, residential	Per Hour	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	0.00%
Regular Season (Nov 1-March 31)	Rate per three movers, residential	Per Hour	\$145.00	\$150.00	\$5.00	3.45%
	Rate per four movers, residential	Per Hour	\$175.00	\$185.00	\$10.00	5.71%
Rates Per Hour	Rate per two movers, residential	Per Hour	\$115.00	\$125.00	\$10.00	8.70%
Peak Season (April 1 - Oct 31)	Rate per three movers, residential	Per Hour	\$145.00	\$160.00	\$15.00	10.34%
	Rate per four movers, residential	Per Hour	\$175.00	\$195.00	\$20.00	11.43%
Additional Charges	Additional Man	Each Per Hour	\$30.00	\$35.00	\$5.00	16.67%
Bulky Items	Piano Grand/Baby Grand	Each	N/A	\$300.00	N/A	N/A
	Items in excess of 400 lbs	Each	N/A	\$250.00	N/A	N/A

On January 27, 2022, the Commission voted to approve the application of Wells Venture to amend its tariff and directed the company to file a Final Tariff incorporating the amendments made in the “Revised Proposed Tariff,” to change the “Date” of the tariff at the bottom of each page to the date of the Order issued approving the amendments, and to correct the Table of Contents to include all sections of the revised tariff and to correct page numbers.

On January 31, 2022, Wells Venture filed a Final Tariff.

III. APPLICABLE LAW

The Commission is specifically authorized to regulate carriers of household goods, and to set their rates and charges: “[t]he commission must promulgate regulations necessary to control entry and certification standards, set rates and charges, and establish enforcement procedures and powers to govern the operations of carriers of household goods and hazardous waste for disposal.” S. C. Code Ann. § 58-23-590 (2015).

The Commission is authorized to fix or approve the rates charged by every South Carolina motor vehicle carrier: “[t]he commission shall regulate every motor carrier in

this State and fix or approve the rates, fares, charges, classifications, and regulations pertaining to each motor carrier The rates once established remain in effect until such time when the commission determines the rates are unreasonable.” § 58-23-1010.

1. The commission shall make, fix, establish, or allow just and reasonable rates, fares, charges, classifications, and rules for all motor carriers subject to its rate jurisdiction.
2. As often as circumstances may require, the commission upon notice and hearing, if deemed necessary, from time to time may change or revise, or cause to be changed or revised, any rates, fares, charges, classifications, and rules of a carrier who operates under a Certificate of PC&N.

S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-191 (2012).

“Every rate made, demanded, or received by any motor carrier operating under a Certificate of PC&N . . . shall be just and reasonable.” Reg. 103-192. Once rates are approved, motor carriers are prohibited from charging more or less than the rates specified in lawful tariffs, schedules, or by specific order of the Commission:

[N]o motor carrier operating under a Certificate of PC&N shall charge . . . a greater or lesser or different compensation for transportation, or for any service rendered, than the rates, fares, and charges specified in the lawfully applicable tariffs or schedules in effect from time to time.

S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-198.

IV. FINDINGS OF FACT

After review of all the evidence in the record, the Commission makes the following findings of fact.

1. The requested amendments set forth in the application are reasonable.

2. Wells Venture provided justification to the Commission to support its request to amend its rates and charges.

3. ORS reviewed the application of Wells Venture and provided a tariff comparison chart.

4. ORS notified the Commission it determined Wells Venture is in compliance with all applicable Commission rules and regulations, including the Annual Report and Gross Receipt filing requirements, and that no complaints were filed against the company in the past twelve months.

5. Wells Venture provided the Commission with a Final Tariff incorporating the proposed changes and correcting the table of contents. However, the Commission instructed Wells Venture to “chang[e] the “Date” of the tariff at the bottom of each page to the date of the Order issued approving the amendment[s]” Therefore, we find Wells Venture shall provide a *Revised Final Tariff* using the issuance date of this order.

V. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. We conclude the proposed amendments to Wells Venture’s tariff are just and reasonable pursuant to Regulations 103-191 and 103-192 of the South Carolina Code of State Regulations.

2. We approve the amended Final Tariff pursuant to the authority of the Commission established in section 58-23-1010 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, but require Wells Venture to file a *Revised Final Tariff*, with the date this order is issued, as instructed by the Commission on January 27, 2022.

3. We conclude that Wells Venture shall provide to the Commission and ORS a *Revised Final Tariff*, incorporating the decisions of the Commission in this docket, as soon as possible but no later than thirty (30) days of the issuance of this Order (i.e., March 14, 2022).

4. The *Revised Final Tariff* resulting from this Order must be filed by Wells Venture to become effective. Upon filing with the Commission and copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff, Wells Venture may implement all rates, charges, terms and conditions in its *Revised Final Tariff*.

VI. ORDERING PROVISIONS

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. The Commission grants the request of Wells Venture, LLC d/b/a College HUNKS Hauling Junk & Moving to amend its tariff as set forth in this order.

2. Wells Venture shall immediately file a *Revised Final Tariff* changing the date of the tariff at the bottom of each page to the date the Order is issued

3. Wells Venture shall provide to the Commission and ORS a *Revised Final Tariff*, incorporating the decisions of the Commission in this docket, as soon as possible but no later than thirty (30) days of the issuance of this Order (i.e., March 14, 2022).

4. The *Revised Final Tariff* resulting from this Order must be filed by Wells Venture to become effective. Upon filing with the Commission and copy to the Office of Regulatory Staff, Wells Venture may implement all rates, charges, terms and conditions in its *Revised Final Tariff*.

5. This Order shall remain in full force and effect until further Order of the Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION:



Justin T. Williams, Chairman
Public Service Commission of
South Carolina